

1.
Hartland.
Bideford.

N. Devon.

February 3^d 1902.

Copy of annual report for 1901-
To the Bideford Rural District Council.

M^r Chairman, & Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you
my annual report for 1901. Since
making my last annual report
the result of the census has been
made known, and the statistics in
this report are based on the figures
there shewn.

The first thing that strikes one is
the steady and serious decrease in
the population which is going on,
amounting to 650 ~~from~~ one census
to the other. So this
decrease every parish without
exception contributes.

This Rural Exodus if it continues
unchecked, is likely to become a
serious problem as it is to the
country that the towns look for
the supply of shews and sinews
which its own populace is unable
to supply, and to the country, also,
must the nation look for the men
to man our fleets and recruit our
armies.

During to this decrease the population the last few years has been considerably overestimated, and consequently the birth and death rates under estimated. In Table I the births and deaths for the preceding three years have been calculated according to the revised figures, thus shewing at a glance the variations of the different years.

Physical
Features and
General character
of district

The district is very hilly, consisting very largely of rough wet moorlands with patches of good land in between. On the North & East it is bounded by the sea, and has a rugged rock-bound coast (very dangerous to sailors) which receives the full force of the Atlantic storms. The high lands are wind swept and dreary, but all along the coast are marvellous combs, or valleys, like great clefts in the land which are sheltered from the winds, in which vegetation grows more luxuriantly, and the inhabitants dwell sheltered from the storms that rage on the hills above. Inland the country gets more fertile and wooded, being more sheltered. With the exception of a little fishing in the villages of Clovelly & Buckle the only occupation is agriculture, large numbers of cattle and horses being reared.

Sickness and
General
Health

There has been very little epidemic sickness during the year -
January & February were very healthy. In March there was some Influenza but nothing like there has been in past years. One notification of Erysipelas.
April was mild and healthy. In May there was mild chicken-pox in various parts of the district which soon passed off. One case of Scarlet fever was notified -
June & July were very hot dry months and there was a good deal of sickness amongst children, but of a mild character - A case of Enteric Fever was notified in June, and one of Erysipelas in July -
 In August two cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in one house. The children in the adjoining houses were kept from school, and there was no spread of the disease.
 In September & October the health of the district was very good.
 In November the prevalence of keen east winds caused a good deal of sickness, chiefly Bronchitis and Pneumonia, specially affecting children.
 In December the district was healthy.

Notifiable
Infectious
Diseases } The district has been very free
from Infectious diseases -
Six notifications having been
received - as under: -

Scarlet Fever 3.

Erysipelas 2.

Enteric Fever 1.

Scarlet Fever All the cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in children, two being in one house at Parkham, and the other in another part of the district at Abbotsham.

The case at Abbotsham could not be accounted for; but at Parkham it was found that they were in the habit of taking in men on tramp, one of whom probably carried the infection with him.

Enteric Fever The case of Enteric Fever could not be accounted for, and the drains and water supply were found to be in good condition.

Erysipelas - One of the cases of Erysipelas proved fatal; the patient being an old man in poor health, and gangrene supervening. In my opinion Erysipelas might well be left out of the list of notifiable diseases, at any rate as far as rural districts are concerned.

Small pox. There have been no cases of this disease, and "conscientious objectors" fortunately are few, and will remain so, it is to be hoped, for the sake of the future.

Non-notifiable Infectious diseases } There has been a marked improvement over last year with regard to Measles & whooping cough, and no deaths have been registered from these diseases, whilst last year there were nine.

Chicken pox In the early spring there was a slight outbreak of chicken pox in various parts of the district, but of a very mild character.

Influenza Influenza made its appearance in the first quarter of the year, but was nothing like so prevalent as in former years. Five deaths are attributed to this cause; the number in 1900 being eight.

Epidemic Diarrhoea There has been very little epidemic diarrhoea in spite of the hot summer - One death has been registered from this cause but none amongst children -

Summary of Sanitary work

The following is a summary of the sanitary work done by Mr James Pennington of Parkham, who has satisfactorily discharged his duties, and to whom I am indebted for much valuable assistance

- 943 visits to dwellings and premises
- 30 dwellings & premises disinfected
- 2 notices served to abate nuisances both being complied with.
- 4 new wells sunk and pumps fixed
- 3 old wells cleaned & protected.
- 16 new privies built.
- 4 old privies reconstructed.
- 18 new drains constructed in cottages and farmyards.
- 6 old drains re-constructed.
- 3 samples of drinking water obtained and sent to the M.O.H. for analysis.

There are in the district :-

- 20 Registered dairies.
- 16 Public schools.
- 14 Slaughter houses.
- 2 Steam bake houses.

These have all been visited and reported on to your board from time to time, and been kept in a satisfactory condition generally. The Inspector has attended to the cleaning out of the various cess-pits in the district and to the

Summary of } scavenging of Clovelly Village.
Sanitary work } He has applied the smoke test
continued. } to any traps or drains, about which
 he has had any doubt.
 All new buildings have been inspected
 and water supply certificates given
 where required.
 Cases of overcrowding have been dealt
 with, and nuisances from improper
 'keeping' of pigs abated.

I have analysed 4 samples of
 water. Of these three were found
 to be fit for domestic purposes.
 The other sample was rendered
 unfit, owing to the seepage into
 the well pit of the drainage from
 a large accumulation of farm
 yard manure, and the well
 was closed.

The water supply has not given so
 much trouble as in some years, the
 springs seeming to hold on better.
 The Parish Council of Abbotsham
 have approached the Northam Council
 with a view to getting a supply of
 water from the Melbury works now
 nearing completion.
 It is to be hoped your Council will
 do their best to further their
 desires in any way it may be
 possible to do so.

Vital Statistics The number of Births registered was 157.
 Males 45. Females 82.
Birth rate Rate per 1000 = 24.5.

The number of Deaths registered was 42.
 Males 41. Females 31.
Death rate. Rate per 1000 = 11.2.

Infant mortality There were 12 deaths of infants under 1 year.
 Death rate per 1000 = 46.4.

Zymotic death rate per 1000 = 0.15.

The general death rate includes four bodies washed ashore from a wreck, but excluding these as not bearing on the health of the district the rate becomes 10.6 per 1000 which is the more correct of the two.

The various causes of deaths of infants under 1 year are:-

Croup 1. Bronchitis 1.

Pneumonia 4.

Premature birth 2 (twins)

Debility from birth 2.

It will be seen from this, that, as usual, diseases of the respiratory organs head the list.

For comparison of the vital statistics with previous years Table I should be consulted; whilst Table II shows

Vital statistics } the ages at, and various causes of
continued. } death during the year.

Analysis of the several districts.

Abbotsham. Births. Total 9. Males 2. Females 7.
 Rate per 1000 = 19.9.
Deaths. Total 4. Males 2. Females 5.
 Rate per 1000 = 15.5.

Bradworthy. Births. Total 12. Males 3. Females 9.
 Rate per 1000 = 28.5.
Deaths. Total 6. Males 4. Females 2.
 Rate per 1000 = 14.2.

Hartland Births. Total 47. Males 42. Females 35.
 Rate per 1000 = 25.3.
Deaths. Total 39. Males 23. Females 16.
 Rate per 1000 = 12.7.

Landcross & Littleham Births. Total 12. Males 5. Females 7.
 Rate per 1000 = 33.3.
Deaths. Total 6. Males 4. Females 2.
 Rate per 1000 = 16.6.

Parkham. Births. Total 44. Males 23. Females 24.
 Rate per 1000 = 22.2.
Deaths. Total 14. Males 8. Females 6.
 Rate per 1000 = 6.6.

Deducting the 4 bodies washed ashore
 and registered in this last district
 the real number of deaths in the
 district is 10, giving the extremely
 low death rate of 4.4 per 1000.

Vital statistics } The districts with the smallest number
continued. } of inhabitants give the highest death
 rates, but this is due, almost
 entirely, to deaths of old people, and
 does not indicate any special
 causes of unhealthiness at work;
 also to the fact that the smaller the
 population the greater is the variation in
 vital statistics liable to be from accidental
 causes unaffected the real health of the
 district.

The birth rate shows a decrease, and
 is below the average for rural
 England & Wales, but fortunately the
 general death rate, & infant mortality
 are also well below the average, as
 it is only by lowered death rates
 that the population can be
 maintained in view of the falling
 birth rate.

The following table shows the differences
 at a glance:—

Table comparing the Birth & Death
 rates of the district with those of
 England & Wales—

annual rates per 1000 =
Bideford District— Births 24.5. Deaths 11.2.
Rural England & Wales— Births 27.2. Deaths 15.7.

Annual death rate of infants under 1 year
 per 1000 births =

Bideford District— 46.4
Rural England & Wales— 138.



The housing question } The housing question is much as it has been. Very little building is done, whilst cottages are abandoned to save the expense of repairs, and many that are inhabited are scarcely fit to be so, and would not be but for want of better.

Improper feeding of infants } Improper feeding of infants is unfortunately only too common, & a coroner's jury sitting on a poor unfortunate infant has helped to emphasize the fact that boiled bread is not fit for infants. Unfortunately many families cannot obtain sufficient milk for ordinary requirements, much less for rearing a young family. It seems incredible in such a purely agricultural district but it is only too true, and results in much unnecessary hardship to the young, and to the aged.

The sanitation of Hartland Village } The sanitation of Hartland Village is rendered difficult owing to so many of the cottages being built close together and having no sanitary accommodation, and many of the drains being built of stones are continually breaking up. Such drains are not fit for the purpose, and would be much better replaced by pipe drains, as is about to be done now in some of the worst places.

Tubercular Disease

The subject of Tuberculosis has been well to the fore during the year, but much that has appeared in the lay press, can, it is to be feared, only be regarded as altogether too optimistic in tone, and from this fault the medical press has not been entirely free.

Excellent as Sanatoria may prove themselves to be in the treatment of Phthisis, there is nothing to gain from exaggerated enthusiasm, as when the results are found to be limited (as they assuredly are) there is a great liability to a proportionate reaction, in which what is good is liable to be laid aside equally with that which has not been found to realize expectations.

So much is heard of the tubercle bacillus that one is apt to regard it as the only cause of Phthisis; but it is not so, as the bacillus is only able to flourish in soil rendered suitable for its growth by some lowered vitality in the individual.

It should be the aim of all sanitary work by providing healthy homes and surroundings, and teaching the value of cleanliness and healthy living, to help the people to build up such constitutions as will be able to defy the ravages of the disease.

and thus in course of time
materially lessen its intensity &
prevalence, and haply, make it
a rare disease.

I am, Mr Chairman & Gentlemen,
Yours obediently

J. H. Hobling
Medical Officer of Health,
Bideford Rural District

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1901 and Previous Years.

Name of District Bideford Rural

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1½ Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1891.														
1892.														
1893.														
1894.														
1895.														
1896.														
1897.														
1898.	6581	175	26.4	11	62.8	93	14.1							
1899.	6516	184	28.6	28	149.4	131	20.1							
1900.	6451	169	26.1	13	46.9	45	11.1							
Averages for years 1895-1900.	5849	144	24.1	14	98.1	99	15.3							
1901.	6386	154	24.5	12	46.4	42	11.2							

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The “Public institutions” to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).

51826

Total population at all ages.....

6386

Number of inhabited houses.....

1415

Average number of persons per house.....

4.5

At Census of 1901.

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	III. Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
none.	Bideford Union Workhouse Bideford General Infirmary—	

TABLE II. Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1901 and previous years.

Name of District																					
Year.	NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	1. <i>Stotsman</i>				2. <i>Bradbury</i>				3. <i>Harland</i>				4. <i>Sandcross Littleham</i>				5. <i>Portham</i>			
		Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1891 ...		a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.
1892 ...																					
1893 ...																					
1894 ...																					
1895 ...																					
1896 ...																					
1897 ...																					
1898 ...		445	19	3	0	442	22	11	2	3131	76	48	5	364	16	3	1	2140	51	28	3
1899 ...		466	15	8	1	435	15	10	5	3100	94	68	13	362	19	3	2	2152	44	42	7
1900 ...		458	9	1	0	428	9	2	1	3069	87	46	8	361	13	3	2	2134	46	23	2
Averages of Years 1898 to 1900.		466	15.3	4	.3	435	15.3	7.6	2.6	3100	85.6	54	8.6	362	16	3	1.6	2152	47	31	4
1901 ...		451	9	7	0	420	12	6	0	3039	77	39	9	360	12	6	1	2116	47	14	2

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district: and blocks 2, 3, &c., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population this Table need not be filled up.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns c of this table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded. (See note on Table I. as to meaning of terms "resident" and "non-resident.")

(c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased.

(d) Care should be taken that the gross totals of the several columns in this Table respectively equal the corresponding totals for the whole districts in Tables I. and IV.: thus, the totals of sub-columns a, b, and c should agree with the figures for the year in the columns 2, 3, and 12, respectively, of Table I.: the gross total of the sub-columns c should agree with the total of column 2 in Table IV., and the gross total of sub-columns d with the figure in column 5 of Table I., and the total of column 3 in Table IV.

M. 191.

R S & Co.—P20411—12,000—6-1901 1006

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1901.

Name of District

Widford Rural.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.							NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.							
	At all Ages.	At Age—Years.					Abbots ham	Bradworth	Hartland	Landross	Littleham	Parkham	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.																65 and upwards.
Small-pox																						
Cholera																						
Diphtheria																						
Membranous croup ...																						
Erysipelas	2					1	1			2												
Scarlet fever	3			3				1														
Typhus fever																						
Enteric fever	1			1						1												
Relapsing fever																						
Continued fever...																						
Puerperal fever																						
Plague																						
*																						
Totals	6			4		1	1	1	0	3	0	2										

NOTES.—The localities adopted for this table should be the same as those in Tables II. and IV.

State in space below the name of the isolation hospital, if any, to which residents in the district, suffering from infectious disease, are usually sent. Mark (H) the locality in which it is situated, or if not within the district, state where it is situated, and in what district.

* This space may be used for record of other disease the notification (compulsory or voluntary) of which is in force in the district.

† These age columns for notifications should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.

M. 192.

Isolation Hospital

None.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1901.

Name of District *Bideford Rural*

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).							TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT. 16
	All ages. 2	Under 1 year. 3	1 and under 5. 4	5 and under 15. 5	15 and under 25. 6	25 and under 65. 7	65 and upwards. 8	<i>St. Botolph</i> 9	<i>Bradworthy</i> 10	<i>Hartland</i> 11	<i>Sanders</i> 12	<i>Littleham</i> 13	14	15	
Small-pox															
Measles															
Scarlet fever															
Whooping-cough															
Diphtheria and membranous croup															
Croup	/	/								/					
Fever { Typhus															
Enteric															
Other continued															
Epidemic influenza	5		/			/	3		/	2		2			
Cholera															
Plague															
Diarrhœa. (See notes at back.)	/						/			/					
Enteritis. (See notes at back.)															
Puerperal fever															
Erysipelas	/						/			/					
Other septic diseases...	/					/					/				
Phthisis	3				2	/				3					
Other tubercular diseases.	2		/			/				2					
Cancer, malignant disease.	4					/	3		2	/	/				
Bronchitis	4	/	/		/	/	3	2		4	/				
Pneumonia	6	4					2	/		2	/	2			
Pleurisy	/						/			/					
Other diseases of Respiratory organs.	/						/			/					
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of liver }															
Venereal diseases															
Premature birth	2	2								2					
Diseases and accidents of parturition.	2	2								2					
Heart diseases	6					2	4	2		2		2			
Accidents	6		2		2	2				2		4			
Suicides	/			/								/			
.....															
.....															
.....															
.....															
.....															
.....															
All other causes	22	2			1	4	15	2	3	12	2	3			
All causes	42	12	5	1	6	14	34	4	6	39	6	14			

NOTES.—(a) In this Table all deaths of "Residents" occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be included with the other deaths in the columns for the several age groups (columns 2-8). They are also, in columns 9-15, to be included among the deaths in their respective "Localities" according to the previous addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars. Deaths of "Non-residents" occurring in public institutions in the district are in like manner to be excluded from columns 2-8 and 9-15 of this Table.

(b) See notes on Table I. as to the meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents," and as to the "Public Institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables. The "Localities" should be the same as those in Tables II. and III.

(c) All deaths occurring in public institutions situated within the district, whether of "Residents" or of "Non-residents," are, in addition to being dealt with as in note (a), to be entered in the last column of this Table. The total number in this column should equal the figures for the year in column 9, Table I.

(d) The total deaths in the several "Localities" in columns 9-15 of this Table should equal those for the year in the same localities in Table II., sub-columns c. The total deaths at all ages in column 2 of this Table should equal the gross total of columns 9-15, and the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.

(e) Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhœa, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from

Epidemic enteritis;
Zymotic enteritis;
Epidemic diarrhœa. Summer diarrhœa;
Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhœa;
Choleraic diarrhœa, cholera, cholera nostras
(in the absence of Asiatic cholera).

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis, and Gastric catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhœa."

Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

J. H. Hobling

Medical Officer of Health.

Date *Feb. 3rd* 1902.